

Joseph Bailly

Fur Trader

By Mari Leigh Mosier

On a fine August morning in 1821, the woods atop the ridge overlooking the Little Calumet River in Porter County, echoed to the sound of footsteps.

True, other footsteps had been heard in the region earlier. Through this same woods the old and main-traveled section of the Sauk Trail ran, but these sounds were different. They were the staying kind.

Others before them had merely passed on. The camps of the French traders and trappers, Spanish and French missionaries, and various Indian tribes had remained only for a short time.

The first permanent white settler in Porter County had arrived. He was ambitious, enterprising Joseph Bailly de Messein, from a wealthy French Canadian family. Its roots went back to 1350 A. D. and Bailly was a "millionaire" in his own right. He had built a fur trading company on Mackinac Island, with 60 trading fur outposts between there and New Orleans.

His first wife was the grand-niece of Chief Pontiac. It was his second wife Marie (half French — half Ottawa) who helped him settle the Calumet region. With them came daughters Therese, Rose, Esther, Lucille and an infant son Robert.

Later Eleanor was born and as a young woman entered the convent, taking the name Sister Mari Cecilia. She received training in Fort Wayne and South Bend. She later became Mother Superior of St. Marys of the Woods near Terre Haute.

The first three log buildings erected still are standing on the grounds nearby the Little Calumet River near Chesterton, Ind. They are open free to the public.



Joseph Bailly Homestead before restoration.

The first, a two-story log building was Joseph Bailly's original home until he received the title from the United States. He then started the home of his dreams, of a French Canadian style, common at that period. It now houses a dining inn.

The second log structure was lo-

cated across the drive, by the Sauk Trail. It was, at first, one of his trading outposts. Later, as the homesteaders and settlers passed through, it became a general store typical of that period.

According to his papers, Joseph
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came through and the years of work on his three-story manor home began. To see it now, it is hard to imagine it as it was when the family first moved in. There were crude barn walls and floors and fireplace-heating only. A summer kitchen was located right outside the back door. At the time the styling was so up-to-date, that an indoor kitchen in the first basement, was called for in the plans.

Complete with open hearth for baking, large windows all around and even a dumb waiter conveniently located next to it, the first two generations of Baillys would have nothing to do with it. They thought it ridiculous, cooking in the same building you slept in. And so, for years the modern lower floor was not used.

It took the family 10 years to complete the interior as it has been restored today. Each room had beautiful parquetry flooring, with different designs. In the dining room, a hand-carved fireplace was used as an altar for family services. Its mantel was carved with designs of twirling grape vines representing the Holy Communion. There were four posts at the bottom, with the flowering dogwood carved in them, representing the legend of the cross of Christ.

In the back of the same room, is a stained glass window, next to an ornately-carved staircase, narrow enough for only one person at a time. Every room in the house has a story to tell and beauty to show.

But the time of enjoyment was not long for our Joseph Bailly. They moved in the year of 1824 and finished the house in 1834. The following year of 1835 took its toll of the happy French Canadian family.

That year started out well enough. First there was the double-marriage of Rose and Esther accompanied by the planting of their marriage trees, an old French Canadian custom. Then came an equally-successful trip to New Orleans. It was there that Joseph purchased the fateful toy sword. Returning home he gave the gift to young Robert, the only son and six years old at the time.

A short time later, sitting in his

Jos. Bailly, Fur Trader

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could not build the third cabin until Spring of the following year. This was the quaint chapel, still in use for services and weddings.

At long last, Bailly's land title

study windows, Joseph heard the children's voices at play. Glancing out the window, he looked in time to see the adopted Indian girl, Lucille, grab the sword from the boy and run it in his heart. Joseph ran out to the boy only to have him die in his arms under his favorite oak.

Two mornings later, the boy was buried in the hastily-consecrated cemetery, the first to lay there. The last was the granddaughter, Frances Bailly Howe, who died in 1910. In between these, many Indians and homesteaders alike were buried in the plot. There are many tales told of the death of Robert, but these came from stories and rumors deliberately spread to confuse the authorities.

This confusion saved the life of Lucille, who shortly ran off, never to be heard from again. Following closely on the heels of the death, came May 21, a date never forgotten by the Indians of the area.

The Pottawatomis, near Bailly's trading post, soon after were rounded up and marched to the West.

Almost all of the Indians were the friends of the Baillys. Joseph had signed several peace treaties on his estate and here was a situation in which he was helpless. He felt this deeply and it broke the spirit and zest of this first settler and citizen of Northwestern Indiana. He died four days before Christmas of 1835.

Today, the grounds with the original buildings are privately owned but have been designated as a National Homesite. The buildings are kept open free of charge to the public. Joseph Bailly de Messein contributed much to history and just as much to humanity.

He translated the entire new testament of the Catholic bible into the Chippewa tongue. He also published a book of hymns in the Indian dialect. His home was always open to any who wanted to live there and learn the white man's ways and religion. He helped to establish churches and schools and encouraged the homesteaders to settle.

A dream of his was the developing of a harbor for industry and a town named Baillytown. The town is now a thing of the past, and the harbor still a thing of the future. But Joseph's achievements speak loud and strong, they are here to stay.

ect on newly-acquired land directly south of the Shakamak Lake dam, a total of 378 acres of surface water will be available for recreational use.

The two existing dams will remain with the water level on the present Shakamak Lake remaining the same and the level of Lake Lenape being raised by approximately 10 feet.

Thus, the swimming beach and existing facilities including piers, diving tower and boat docking area will be adequate without change. The Lake Lenape dam will be used as a roadway for access between the areas of the park separated by the newly developed body of water.

Basically, under Public Law 566, Soil Conservation Service pays all the costs of construction and installation services for works of improvement that are necessary for flood control, and will pay 50 per cent of the costs of such works of improvement that are to be used for public recreation including additional land needed.

In addition, Soil Conservation Service will pay one-half of the cost for additional land inundated for recreational use plus a protective strip of land 100 feet beyond the elevation of the emergency spillway or two feet elevation above the emergency spillway. Local legal sponsors agree to provide land, easements and rights-of-way needed for flood control structures and sediment pools.

The completed plans for this structure and the resulting impoundment, the elevation of which has been adjusted to the present elevation of Lake Shakamak, call for a division of costs of 56.6 per cent from Federal Public Law 566 funds and 43.4 per cent from other sources.

Since all lands involved in this structure are or will be within Shakamak State Park, the State of Indiana, as owner, has agreed to provide all the local share of costs of land, easements and rights-of-way required under Public Law 566. This constitutes a part of the local contribution included in the overall cost of the entire watershed project.

Participation in the development

of minimum basic recreation facilities on areas adjacent to impoundments created by multi-purpose flood control recreation structures is another part of Public Law 566.

Here Soil Conservation Service will cost share with local people, through a legal sponsor on a 50-50 basis for such development as may be agreed upon between the local people and Soil Conservation Service.

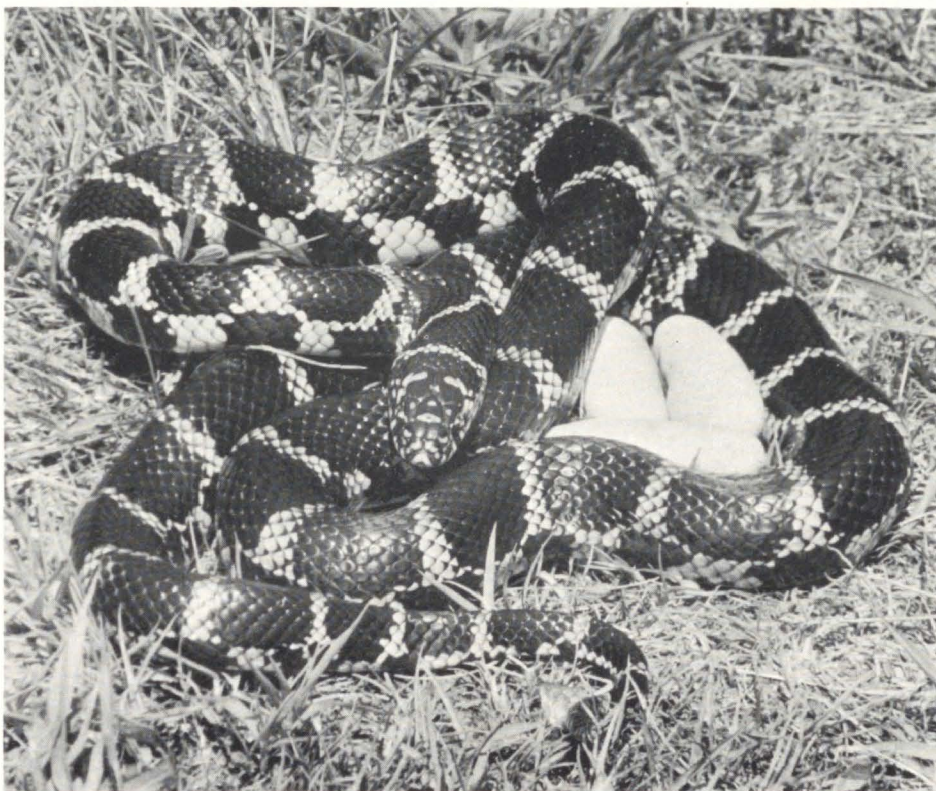
Planned basic recreation facilities for Shakamak that have been developed and agreed upon by the Department of Natural Resources and Soil Conservation Service. These include the building of 3.92 miles of a new park road, a new sewage plant and lift station, 25,900 feet of water lines, 2 boat docks, 2 boat launching ramps, a tent and trailer camp ground, 5 comfort stations with flush toilets, 6 pit toilets, parking areas for 565 cars, 335 picnic grills and the planting of some 6,000 trees.

The total estimated cost of this proposed facility is \$673,350, to be contributed on a 50-50 basis by the

Department of Natural Resources and Soil Conservation Service.

The State of Indiana contribution to this facility improvement is made possible through the use of Cigarette Tax funds that were allocated to the Department of Natural Resources for use to buy land for developing outdoor recreational facilities. Allocations have been made and agreements executed for this project and it is hoped that contracts will be executed so that construction can begin at an early date.

The people of Clay, Greene and Sullivan Counties are proud of their continued contributions to Shakamak State Park and looking forward to completion of the works of improvement made possible through their Busseron Small Watershed Project. When completed, Shakamak can add motor boating and water-based activities to its long list of recreation attractions and will have one of the most complete and usable State Parks in the Indiana system.



Above, a mother kingsnake guards her eggs with her body. The kingsnake, although banded somewhat like the copperhead and rattlesnake, is not poisonous. It also is a deadly enemy of the rattlesnake, mice and rats. (See article, Rattlesnake and Copperhead Stories, Page 10.)

Huge Ne

*By Herbert R. Hill
Director, Public Information
and Education*

An exciting new 25,000-acre recreation complex which would include a 40-mile stretch of unspoiled river is being planned by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for imminent development in Harrison County.

The project would include the Harrison-Crawford State Forest (at present totalling 20,642 acres), Wyandotte Cave, and Blue River's lower reaches until it empties into the Ohio River near Leavenworth.

An almost unique feature would be a three-day canoe course down Indiana's only remaining "wild river." Also, there would be a marina serving boaters who choose to navigate the 115-mile-long pool of the Ohio River between Louisville, Kentucky, and the new locks and dam at Cannelton.

The State Forest already provides popular camping facilities, as well as hiking, boating, horseback riding, picnicking, fishing and archery. The new complex, when completely developed, would include more hiking and bridle trails, more camp sites, and an Olympic-size swimming pool.

To complete a diversity unequalled elsewhere, the State is buying the Wyandotte Cave property, hitherto held by one family since pioneer days. This includes 1,100 acres of wooded hills, Wyandotte Cave with several miles of explored passages and many more miles still unexplored, Little Wyandotte Cave, several other small caves, and a 20-acre lake.

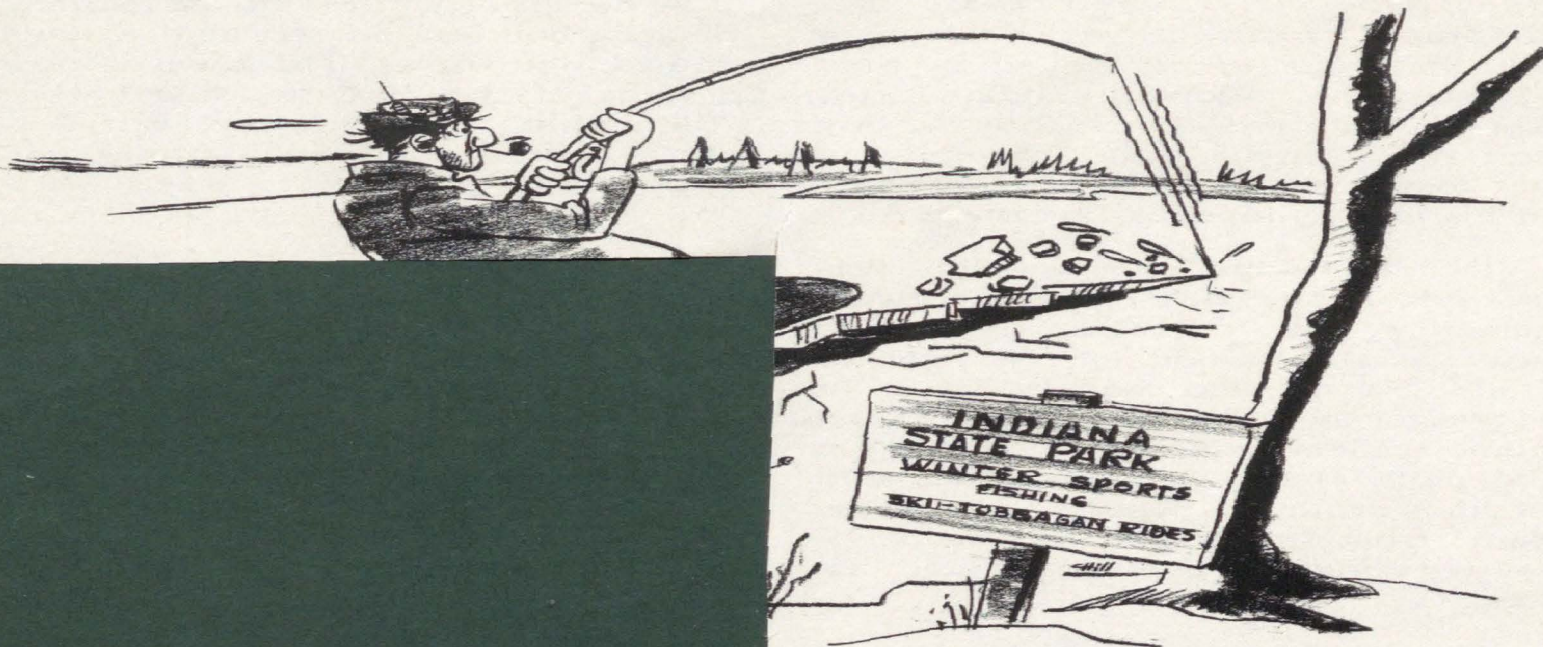
The State would control by lease or purchase the banks on both sides of Blue River. Conservationists are delighted by this proposal to save from commercial exploitation one of the very few such streams east of the Mississippi.

The new recreation complex will be close to Corydon, which is the

own wigwam home.

Two years after their marriage, their first child was born, a son, Olondaw. Three years later they were blessed with a daughter, Hazeleye.

We and the historians would like to report they "lived happily ever after." Unfortunately, the story didn't have that kind of storybook ending. The firewater which Chief Simon



able to the public generally elsewhere.

While some of the articles would seem to be trying to shift the credit for arousing public concern regarding pesticides and herbicide effects in destroying bird life from Rachel Carson to the Department of Interior agencies, they do point up research to the current time in this controversial field. They also do an excellent job in presenting problems often involved in other controversies, such as preservation of vanishing species, damage to farm crops, municipal bird problems, waterfowl hunting, etc.

Several hundred black-and-white illustrations are outstanding.

Among the authors is Durward L. Allen, Purdue University, who makes a valuable and objective contribution with an article, "Hunting Versus Vandalism."

REGARDING BOOKS

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